



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland*

*Thomas M. DiBiagio
United States Attorney*

*Northern Division
6625 United States Courthouse
101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4856
FAX 410-962-0693*

*Southern Division
400 United States Courthouse
6500 Cherrywood Lane
Greenbelt, MD 20770-1249*

*301-344-4433
301-344-4422
FAX 301-344-4516*

**FEBRUARY 11, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
VICKIE LEDUC, AUSA
(410) 209-4885**

Man Sentenced in Armed Robbery of Pawn Shop

Greenbelt, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Ryan Christian Benedicto, age 20, of District Heights, Maryland was sentenced today by Judge Deborah K. Chasanow to 124 months imprisonment followed by three years of supervised release for crimes committed in connection with the September 10, 2002 armed robbery of the A-1 Pawn Shop in Laurel, Maryland.

The two-count Indictment charged Benedicto and four others with robbery by threat of force and violence against two employees of the A-1 Pawn Shop, as well as use of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime. During the armed robbery of the A-1 Pawn Shop, a total of 82 firearms, mostly handguns, were stolen.

According to a stipulated statement of facts, two co-defendants were employees of the A-1 Pawn Shop and provided inside information to the actual robbers. This information included the location of video surveillance cameras. Benedicto and two co-defendants carried out the armed robbery using the information

provided by those employees.

To date, the majority of the handguns stolen from the robbery have not been found. Any information relating to the whereabouts of the weapons should be directed to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms at 1-800-ATF-GUNS.

This case was jointly investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Prince George's County Police Department, and the United States Attorney's Office , and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys James M. Trusty and Sandra Wilkinson.